

UNCLASSIFIED Department of State

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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 OCS-06 CA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2563

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 TEL AVIV 18826

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: CASC, CPAS, IS
SUBJECT: BLACK HEBREW ARTICLES IN JERUSALEM POST (IV)

REF: TEL AVIV 18500

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF THE FOURTH, AND FINAL,
JOAN BORSTEN ARTICLE ON THE BLACK HEBREWS WHICH APPEARED
IN THE 'JERUSALEM POST', TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1980.

QUOTE

BLACK HEBREWS 'DUPED' GLASS PANEL

"WE AREN'T INTERESTED IN WHAT GOES ON INSIDE THE BLACK
HEBREW COMMUNITY.. OUR JOB IS TO FIND A SOLUTION THAT WILL
PUT AN END TO THE FRICTION WHICH HAS ARISEN IN DIMONA
BETWEEN THE ISRAELIS AND THE BLACK HEBREWS." ZVI ZILKER,
MAYOR OF ASHDOD AND A MEMBER OF THE GLASS COMMISSION,
JANUARY 1978.

THE GLASS COMMISSION REPORT'S FAILURE TO SERIOUSLY
INVESTIGATE THE BLACK HEBREWS' WAY OF LIFE WORRIES
AMERICANS AND ISRAELIS FAMILIAR WITH THE CULT AND FRIGHTENS
FORMER MEMBERS.
THOSE WHO HAVE READ THE 147-PAGE STUDY OF THE COMMUNITY,
ITS HISTORY, ITS IDEOLOGY AND ITS 12-YEAR RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE STATE OF ISRAEL ARE MOST IMPRESSED WITH THE THOROUGH
RESEARCH DONE BY MK DAVID GLASS AND HIS THREE COLLEAGUES.
"IN ALL," WRITES GLASS IN THE PREFACE TO HIS REPORT, "WE
HEARD OPINIONS AND EVIDENCE FROM 55 PEOPLE, READ EXTENSIVE
BACKGROUND MATERIAL, RESEARCH STUDIES, SURVEYS, LETTERS,
PRESS CLIPPINGS, AND OTHER MATERIAL RELEVANT TO THE
SUBJECT."

EVERYONE COMPLIMENTS THE COMMITTEE FOR ITS COMPREHENSIVE
ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM AND ITS POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS, AS
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WELL AS ITS ABSOLUTE CONDEMNATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S
INEPT DEALINGS WITH THE COMMUNITY.

AND NO ONE UNDERSTANDS HOW THE TEAM WHICH SPENT 20 MONTHS,
AT THE TAXPAYER'S EXPENSE, PROBING "ALL" ASPECTS OF THE
BLACK HEBREW PROBLEM - A PROBE THAT ENTAILED A TRIP TO THE
U.S. - VIRTUALLY IGNORED CHARGES THAT QUESTION THE CULT'S
VALUES, BEHAVIOUR AND CONTROL SYSTEMS. NO ONE CAN UNDER-
STAND HOW THE COMMITTEE REACHED ITS CONCLUSIONS - SETTLING
THE BLACK HEBREWS IN A VILLAGE AND GIVING THEM PERMANENT
RESIDENCE VISAS - WITHOUT INTERVIEWING ANY OF THE NUMEROUS
DEFECTORS CURRENTLY LIVING IN ISRAEL.

"GLASS CORRECTLY REALIZED THAT THE BLACK HEBREWS ARE A
CULT, AND THEREFORE CANNOT BE JUDGED BY THE NORMS APPLIC-
ABLE TO OTHER SOCIAL GROUPS," SAID AN AMERICAN WHO HAS
READ THE REPORT. "AND THEN HE DECIDED THE BLACK HEBREWS
ARE A HEALTHY, HAPPY LOT AND DISMISSES AS 'APPARENTLY

UNFOUNDED' CHARGES OF ABUSE AND THREATS. HOW? BY INTERVIEW-
ING TWO JEWS FROM DIMONA, ONE BLACK HEBREW WOMAN JAILED FOR
THEFT, AND 'HUNDREDS' OF BLACK HEBREWS - AS IF A GROUP
LIVING IN A COMMUNITY CHARACTERIZED BY THAT KIND OF REGIME
WOULD BE FREE TO SPEAK OPENLY, OR IS CAPABLE OF SPEAKING
OPENLY.

"HAD HE BOTHERED TO TRAVEL ONE HOUR FROM HIS OFFICE, IN
VARIOUS DIRECTIONS, HE COULD HAVE TALKED TO FORMER CULT
MEMBERS. THEY WOULD HAVE GIVEN HIM A MUCH DIFFERENT PICTURE
AND INFORMATION THAT WOULD HAVE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM
TO REACH THE CONCLUSIONS HE DID."

"BY REFUSING TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE REAL NATURE OF THE
CULT, GLASS HAS DONE ISRAEL A GREAT DIS-SERVICE," SAID AN
AMERICAN INVOLVED IN HELPING "CLEAN UP" THE AFTERMATH OF
JONESTOWN. "HIS RECOMMENDATIONS ARE BASED ON ONLY SOME OF
THE FACTS. SO WHAT SEEMS LIKE A 'LOGICAL, HUMANE, JEWISH'
SOLUTION TODAY MAY WELL LEAD TO DISASTER IN FIVE YEARS."

GLASS' ONLY FIRM SUPPORTER THESE DAYS IS BEN-AHI CARTER,
WHO DIMONA RESIDENTS CLAIM CLEVERLY "SNOWED" THE MK WITH
HIS "REASONABLE" NEW STANCE, THREATS OF MASS SUICIDE AND
STIRRING UP ANTI-ISRAEL SENTIMENT IN THE AMERICAN BLACK
COMMUNITY. OF THE THREE AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS
WHICH, IN 1978, PRESSURED BY U.S. BLACK LEADERS, URGED
INTERIOR MINISTER YOSEF BURG TO IMMEDIATELY ADOPT A FAIR
SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, ONLY THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS
OFFICIALLY ENDORSES THE GLASS RECOMMENDATIONS.
THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE HAS MADE "NO FORMAL RESPONSE"
AND THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE IS SAYING THAT "IN THE
LAST ANALYSIS THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE WHATEVER
ACTION SUITS ITS OWN BEST INTERESTS." BUT SPOKESMAN FOR



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TS AUTH. REASON(S)

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